

# ACCREDITATION FAQ

## **Accreditation Fee:**

Question: When will the accreditation fee be due?

Answer: The initial fee will be due when the application is submitted. After the initial application, the fee will be due annually on September 15.

Question: Will the training institution have to pay a fee to OEMS for the site visit?

Answer: No. The site visit is part of the accreditation process covered by the fee.

## **Substantially Equivalent Accreditation**

Question: If a training program has completed the CoAEMSP accreditation process, would this be accepted as substantially equivalent accreditation?

Answer: Yes, if the CoAEMSP accreditation is current and valid. The training institution will be required to submit supporting documentation.

## **Practical Examination:**

Question: Who will coordinate the scheduling of chief examiners?

Answer: OEMS will continue to schedule chief examiners.

Question: Who will the chief examiners work for and be paid by?

Answer: OEMS will employ and pay chief examiners, and they will function as the official representative of OEMS at all examinations.

Question: Will the training institution hire the examiners and, if so, who will set the fee?

Answer: The training institution will hire the examiners. OEMS will continue to provide examiner training and to approve examiners, at least initially. Each accredited training institution will determine the rate of pay for examiners.

Question: Will examiners need to contract with each institution for when they work as examiners?

Answer: Yes, for pay purposes it may be a necessity.

Question: Is there a possible conflict of interest with the training institutions paying examiners?

Answer: The Department will establish clear policies in Administrative Requirements (A/Rs) to avoid conflict of interest.

Question: Will the training institutions be able to use their own practical exams and scenarios?

Answer: No, only the state certification practical exam will be authorized.

Question: Will the practical examination for state certification be updated to reflect changes in the curriculum and Statewide Treatment Protocols?

Answer: Yes, OEMS will work with the medical services and training subcommittees of EMCAB and with chief examiners to update the practical exam.

Question: Will there be more training opportunities for making new examiners?

Answer: Yes, OEMS understands there is a need and will be working with the chief examiners to ensure availability of examiner training courses.

### **Preceptors**

Question: Under accreditation, field preceptors are required to have a minimum of two years' experience. How will the training institution know this? It is difficult to know if an individual preceptor has the required experience, and the ambulance services will not necessarily track this for the training program.

Answer: Under the current system, without accreditation, the OEMS exam coordinator reviews and verifies a student's skill competency forms and preceptor experience, and has been checking to see if a preceptor has two years of experience. Under accreditation, since students' skill sheets will no longer be sent to OEMS, it will be the training institution's responsibility to verify competency and preceptor experience. One way this can be accomplished is for the ALS preceptor experience issue to be addressed in the program/service affiliation agreement.

### **Record Keeping**

Question: Will accredited institutions be allowed to store electronically skill competency documentation?

Answer: OEMS supports electronic data storage where possible and will investigate both the legal and technical aspects of documenting skill competency electronically, and provide feedback before accreditation is awarded.

Question: Will each accredited training institution be judged against its competitors? For example, if one institution has electronic record keeping, will all institutions have to have it? Or if one institution provides high-speed Internet access to its students, will an institution with dial-up modem Internet access be judged to be deficient?

Answer: No. The institutions will be required to carry out certain duties and responsibilities as accredited training providers, but how they do it is up to them. For example, accredited institutions must maintain documentation, but it is up to the individual institution whether it wishes to keep them as hard copies or in electronic format.

### **Self-Assessment**

Question: Will there be a self-assessment tool?

Answer: Yes, this will be part of the initial accreditation packet.

### **Program Policies**

Question: Will applicants for accreditation be required to submit policies on OSHA and ADA, etc.?

Answer: No, applicants will be required to attest that they will comply with all laws, regulations, etc. that apply, including Drug Control, OSHA, and ADA, etc.

Question: Why would accreditation applicants need to provide information to OEMS on prerequisites and demographics on applicants?

Answer: OEMS, as the accrediting and certification agency, wishes to have some assurance that EMS training institutions appropriately review EMT candidates, track and correlate performance, training prerequisites, and demographic factors. In the future, OEMS plans to analyze this information and provide feedback to accredited training institutions for quality improvement purposes.

Question: Will there be a policy to identify minimum course content, or will training institutions have to develop their own policies on minimum course content?

Answer: OEMS will identify course content requirements.